pennsylvania musician

magazine

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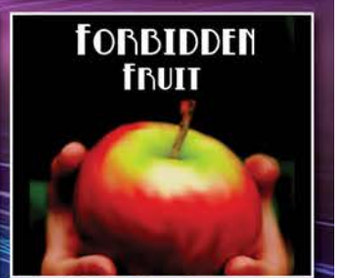
6-Hopeless Semantics 6pm-8pm, Mike Musson under the tent 6pm-8pm, Heads or Tails Experience 8pm-11pm
7-Laura Laughman under the tent 6pm- 8pm, Colt Wilbur Band 8pm-11pm
8-Slade Heller under the tent 5pm-7pm, Line Dancing 6pm-9pm
9-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
11-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
12-Music Bingo 6:30pm-8:30pm
13-Thom Lewis 6pm-8pm, RJ Conrad under the tent 6pm-8pm. 90's Costume Dance Party with DJ Jim Mann 8pm-11pm
14-Bikini Wash 1pm-5pm, Fickle Mistress 8pm-11pm
15-Stephen Robert under the tent 5pm-7pm
16-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
17-Zavala (House Band) 7pm-9pm
18-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
19-Bike Night with Bikini Competition and Forbidden Fruit on stage 6pm-9pm
20-Rob Edembo under the tent 6pm-8pm, D-bo 8pm-11pm
21-Vanishing Point 8pm-11pm
22-Tommy B under the tent 5pm-7pm
23-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
24-Dave Gates 6pm-8pm
25-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
26-Marshall Stone 6pm-8pm
27-Jessica Batz under the tent 6pm-8pm, Laura Laughman & Down Home 8pm-11pm
28-Suicide Puppets 8pm- 11pm
29-Thom Lewis under the tent 5pm-7pm
30-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm



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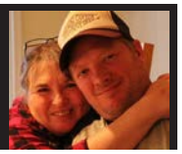
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Welcome to another issue of PA Musician Magazine. We have a busy month and a lot to talk about so lets get right into it.

A couple festivals to put on your radar: The Upstage Music Festival is coming up later in the summer—August 7th–9th—and it's promising to be a blowout event with something for everyone, even some wrestling thrown into the mix! Check out the July issue for a full rundown on the event and also go to theupstagemusicfest.com for more details.

The Briggs Farm Blues Festival is taking place on July 10–12, and there's a reason it's been called "the best weekend of the year." This three-day blues festival has become one of the can't-miss events in our area. Located in the beautiful hills just outside of Nescopeck, PA, the Briggs family farm is transformed into a small town of sorts for the weekend.

With camping of all varieties—tent camping, car camping, RV camping, special sites that can see the stage, sites in the woods, and options for all types—plus lots of food vendors, craft vendors, two stage areas, shaded tent areas, pop-up spots, chair areas—you name it, they've got it! People even deliver ice and pizza. What more could you ask for?

This is such a well-run event, put on by Alison Briggs and her family/team. Once you're on "The Farm," it's very clear they are all about the music and making sure everyone has a great time. With the dual stages far enough apart, it's like attending two festivals at once. The schedule allows for some overlap, so you can casually switch from stage to stage and not miss much.

This year, they're once again bringing in a diverse lineup featuring some new names as well as festival veterans. Guitar Zack is back—what an amazing performer, interacting with the crowd between mind-boggling songs that leave jaws on the floor. If you don't know about Guitar Zack and you play guitar, then shame on you! The lineup includes something for everyone, with Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds headlining along with Victor Wainwright and The Train. Other acts include Nikki Hill, Lachy Doley, The Stephen Hull Experience, Brett Alexander & Friends, and many more. Go check out the webpage for more details and camping info at briggsfarm.com—that's easy to remember, so type it in, check it out, and get your tickets today! Stay for the day or the whole weekend. For the full festival experience, camp. Even if you've never camped, you'll have fun, meet great people.

Another event to put on the radar: The Burn It Down Music Festival on Saturday, June 28th, presented by Metal AF Jewelry. This event takes place at the Mechanicsburg Men's Club picnic grounds and will feature nine bands, craft beer, food and craft vendors, and the infamous Jen Shade of 105.7 The X will be there as well. Bands include Emily's Toybox, Coal, Almost Honest, Mawcore, and more. Check out the ad in this issue for more info and get your early bird tickets now!

We have two new advertisers this month: First up is Kirk M. Wise, recent winner of the CPMA's "Iron Man" award for his devotion to the craft—he played 240 shows last year! One look at Kirk's schedule and you can see he likes to keep busy. With 18 show dates this month, performing as a solo, duo, trio, or full band, Kirk has a little something for everyone. Check out his full schedule

The second new advertiser is The Floating Gems, a three-piece featuring Danielle Farhart (guitar/vocals), Joshua Hetrick (keys), and Zach Wolford (guitar/vocals). Danielle has a great voice, and they play a mix of your favorite covers and originals. You can catch them live this month on June 14th at the 2nd Annual Spring Festival @ Bucks Valley Winery, and also on the 27th at the Juniata Valley Winery on 2nd—that's the Newport location. Check them out on Facebook, but more importantly—check them out live!

That's it for this month—I'm out of space. Call, text 717-636-4203 or email joshnoll@pamusician.net to let the masses know that you exist and you're into keeping music, LIVE!

6/14 2nd Annual Spring Fest @ Bucks Valley Winery 3-6pm
6/27 Juniata Valley Winery on 2nd, Newport 5-7pm
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6.22 Writer's Round at Horn Pub
6.27 Ridge Run 8-11 pm
6.29 Snitz Creek 2-5 pm

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Wed. 6/4 - Mercato Mio Restaurant at the Penn Harris, Camp Hill-solo 6-8:30
Fri. 6/6 - Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs, Railroad/ Shrewsbury-solo 6-8
Sat 6/7 - Reid's Wine & Cider Tasting Room, Gettysburg-Duo 2-5
Sun. 6/8 - Wolf Brewing Brunch, Mechanicsburg-solo 11-2
Wed. 6/11 - Mercato Mio Restaurant at the Penn Harris, Camp Hill-solo 6-8:30
Thurs. 6/12 - Downtowne Food Truck Rally, New Cumberland-solo 5-8
Fri. 6/13 - Hemauer Brewing, Mechanicsburg-solo 7-9
Sat. 6/14 - Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs, Railroad/ Shrewsbury-solo 6-8
Thurs. 6/19 - Jubilee Day, Mechanicsburg...Jubilee Band Noon-1:30
Fri. 6/20 - Totem Pole Wine Farm/Ranch Carlisle-solo 6:30-8:30
Sat. 6/21 - Redland Valley Church Flea Market, Lewisberry-solo 9-11
Sun. 6/22 - Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs, Railroad/ Shrewsbury-solo 1-4
Wed. 6/25 - Mercato Mio Restaurant at the Penn Harris, Camp Hill-solo 6-8:30
Fri. 6/27 - Mechanicsburg Downetowne Alley Event-solo 6-8
Sat. 6/28 - Rotunda Brewing Restaurant, Annville-solo/duo 6-9
Sun. 6/29 - Adams County Winery, Orrtanna-solo 1-4
Thur. 7/3 - Big Bottom Brewery @ Al's Pizza, Dillsburg-solo 7-9

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06/08 NISSLEY VINEYARD, BAINBRIDGE 1-4
06/11 MECHANICSBURG LEGION, MECHANICSBURG 6-9
06/12 LEBANON COUNTRY CLUB, LEBANON 6-9
06/13 ARMSTRONG VALLEY WINERY, HALIFAX 7-9
06/14 HOLY ROSARY ASSOC, HARRISBURG 530-830
06/17 THEA, MECHANICSBURG 6-8
06/20 WEST SHORE ELKS, CAMP HILL 7-10
06/21 EAGLES NEST, YORK 7-10
06/26 VFW, ETTERS 530-830
06/27 ALLENBERRY, BOILING SPRINGS 6-8

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Ragged Grace

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JUNE 28: SCHUYLKILL HAVEN ART FEST 2-3PM
JUNE 29: HERSHEY VINEYARD 2-5PM

JULY 11: HERSHEY ITALIAN LODGE 6-8PM
JULY 19: BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC HOUSE 7-9PM
JULY 25: MIDDLETOWN VFW 7-10PM
JULY 31: ETTERS VFW 5-8PM

(PLUS, "GARY-OKE" EVERY WEDNESDAY AT GARY'S BAR IN PALMYRA 9-12)

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06-27-25 HOLLYWOOD CASINO, GRANTVILLE, PA
07-02-25 SHY BEAR BREWING, LEWISTOWN, PA
07-04-25 DUKE'S RIVERSIDE, LEMOYNE, PA
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6/14 The New Ox Social Club, New Oxford 8pm

6/21 Beach Bash 2025!! Strinestown 12-10pm

6/27 Shrewsbury Fireman's Carnival 7pm

6/28 Bourbon Mill, New Oxford 6-10pm

7/1 New Freedom Lions Club Carnival 7pm

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www.thebandstonewood.com

Stonewood

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DATE	LOCATION	TIME
SAT JUNE 7TH	WHISTLE STOP, EPHRATA	5-8PM
FRI JUNE 27TH	THE CIRCLE, HANOVER	8-11 PM
SAT JULY 12TH	BEVERLY HILLS TAVERN	8-11 PM

610-763-5309 or caulfieldsradio@gmail.com

Booking for 2026

OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Here we go! It's article time once again! This one is going to be short and sweet! I apologize for my lack of details this month, but this article is all about getting 'er done so I can go have some fun!

It all started with a wild birthday bash at Flinchy's for the owner, Matt Flinchbaugh's birthday party with Swisher Sweets on stage. The band managed to squish in the corner and rock out! Matt even got up and sung a few songs with the band! Needless to say wild shenaningans were had by all and it was a great night of music, fun, and lots of friends!

The next night was the first open mic of the month. Weekends have been so busy, that the best time for me to catch music is during the week, the open mics are always fun because you never know what's gonna happen or who you are going to see. It's also cool to be in a room with musicians and music lovers just talking about music and having a good time! The talent this night was Crasher Acoustic, Jon from Hat Trick, Merv, Mike, I believe from Pair of Aces, Ben, Crash & Cross, Derek Avalon, and then of course a killer acoustic jam to end the night!

Thursday, Horn Pub decided to have entertainment for their first Bike Night of the season. Stephen Robert pulled a bunch of friends together and turned it into a Hank and Friends jam! Stephen, Slade, and Derek were the main rockstars and then we also finally, heard a bit of Coal State!! (You're welcome Derek.) Bobby Crum was in the house and showed us his many talents on guitar, drums and vocals. Stave Mazur stepped up for a few, and Crasher Acoustic was also in the house, and jammed on a few songs as well. A crazy amount of motorcycles came out and it was a great first Bike Night for the Horn Pub. I wonder why all bike nights in the area are all on Thursdays? It seems a little odd to me, but hey, I'm not a bar owner!

I've been phasing myself out of my BRP work, but I do help out when I can. I hope everyone is being nice to the new girl Liz! We will be tackling Q4 availability soon, so get ready to help her out and treat her nicely. I covered a show for them at Ocean Downs casino. When that one got booked I knew I had to be the one to cover it! I was able to see Flock of Seagulls and Confederate Railroad! What a great weekend of entertainment for the Kentucky Derby!

Sunday I came home and had to deliver my mags, and it happened to be Cinco De Mayo Eve, aka May the 4th, and Stephen texted me to let me know they were hanging at Tequila Willies for Los Monstros. I booked them for quite a few shows, but it was about time I finally got to hear them. What a great show! Their son, at only 16 years old, plays multiple instruments, sang, and really made their show! What a great way to start the week. On Cinco de Mayo itself, I was too tired, and finally took a day to rest!

Tuesday night it was off to the Copper Pub for open mic hosted by Megan and Dave. I got there a little late, but still heard a lot of great talent! Steve Mazur, Crasher, Merv, Dave Gates and Colin Alvarez as a duo, and then RJ Conrad even stepped in and made it a trio! Then Megan grabbed a mic and started singing, and Matt Jameson couldn't resist and jumped in on Cajon and we had a full band! Another super cool part about open mics is how musicians just jump up and start jamming with each other. It's always awesome to see how versatile everyone is, and how accepting everyone is! This group of musicians really work to-

continued on next page...

Tues. 6/3-Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, 6-8pm
Wed. 6/4-OPEN MIC at Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 6/6-Beerded Goat Brewery, 6:30p-9:30pm
Sat. 6/7-Boomerang Bar & Grill, 6-9pm
Sun. 6/8-Flinchy's, Camp Hill, 2-5pm
Wed. 6/11-OPEN MIC, Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Sat. 6/14-Kiwi's Tiki Hut, Rehobeth Beach, 5-9pm
Thurs. 6/19-Waynestock Music Fest, 5pm
Sat. 6/21-Private Event
Sun. 6/22-Wolf Brewing, Mechanicsburg, 11-2pm
Wed. 6/25-OPEN MIC, Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 6/27-McSherrystown Moose, 6-9pm
Sat. 6/28-Burn It Down Music Fest, 12-10pm

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STEEL

TOUR SCHEDULE

6/8 Fallston Barrel House, Fallston MD 4pm
6/21 Bourbon Mill, New Oxford PA 6pm
6/27 Private Party, Tannytown MD 8:30pm
7/4 Riverbend with special guest Problem Child Falling Waters, WV 5pm
7/19 Racehorse Tavern, Thomasville PA 8pm

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BURN IT DOWN

Usurzy — Coal
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2025

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Out & About continued....

gether. RJ Conrad can usually be found jamming with his original band, Rascal Revival. I haven't heard him play for so long, he can definitely jam! Maybe one of these days I'll actually catch a full band show. Great job to Megan and Dave for hosting this open mic every first Tuesday! The next one on June 3rd, will be co-hosted with the Central PA Music Hall of Fame, so I can't wait to see how crazy that one is!

Wednesday night after another trip to Blue Sky for Open Mic, we zoomed over to Flinchy's for Sam M Music. It's always awesome to hear women rockin' out! Cindy and I came in dancing and we livened up the deck with our shenanigans!

Thursday I headed in to Sturges Speakeasy for Derek Avalon. This was a last-minute show, but the place was still packed. It's always cool to see how many people love coming to Sturges to listen to music, hang out, and have a great time. It's so awesome to see and hear Derek rockin' out for his friends!

Hot & Dangerous

On a Friday night I finally had time to go to Shermans Creek Inn for some full rockin bands, Hot and Dangerous and Road Case! It has been way too long since I've seen both of these bands! Hot and Dangerous had parts of Road Case filling in, they had Ed on drums, and even had guest guitar performances from Clint and Jeff! Erica can sing! It's always amazing watching her in action!! So glad I made it in time.. finally! Then it was time for Road Case! Watching these guys perform is always pretty amazing! It's an absolute bummer that full bands don't have more places to perform! Road Case is tired of constantly fighting to find places to play, so word on the street is their Final show will be at Crossroads Wine Shop on June 28th! Let's pack the place and give them some love!

On a Saturday night I ran out to Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel for Matt Jameson on the deck! He also had Slade playing drums with him to make it an extra cool performance. I absolutely love the Hooooootel! It's always a great place to hear amazing music and eat delicious food! Cindy and I made sure we did some dancing and had some fun with the fine folks of the Hooootel!

Of course that wasn't enough fun for a Saturday, so I ended the night zooming over to Flinchy's for the All About Chuck Duo: Chuck Britton and Ronnie Rhoads. I made it for the end of the night, and the guys were doing their best to play some songs that neither of them have played before, let alone together, but they did what any cool musician does, and they faked it, and made sure the crowd was having a good time! I love when musicians don't care about making a song perfect, but make sure everyone is having a perfectly amazing good time!

Roadcase

On Wednesday night I finally had time to meet up with Cindy at Flinchy's with our good friend Frank for JJ Rupp. You can usually see JJ performing with his full band, but tonight was just a solo show. It's hard to believe that it was a good 16 years ago I saw JJ performing with Knotfal, when his Mom had to give him special permission to play in a bar at only 19 years old! It's a friendly reminder of how many musicians I've seen playing in so many different bands over the years, not to mention all the friends I've made!

Megan & Dave

On a Friday night I headed over to Copper Pub with Cindy for a very special night with Megan and Dave. Cindy had special Megan and Dave shirts made by the merch queens Casey and Angie! The shirts had Megan and Dave's log with "Road Crew" on the back! Needless to say Megan and Dave were super surprised and touched by the amazing shirts! Cindy is such a thoughtful friend, we are all so lucky to have her in our lives! Megan and Dave put on a great show, soon Megan will be playing guitar on every song! That girl is a strumming maniac! It's awesome to see Dave encouraging her and helping her along the way. They make a great team! After their show we all zoomed over to Flinchy's to catch the tail end of Hank the Buffalo.

Saturday was a big shindig! It was Mike and Pam's 35th Anniversary Party at the Doyle Hotel! Mike is a councilman for Duncannon, but if you've ever been to the town, you know that Mike and Pam are what make "Fun"cannon, FUN! These two are always out supporting music, talking to friends, dancing, and having a good time. And if it's during daylight hours, you usually find them making the town beautiful! They are extremely proud of Duncannon and they do everything they can to make it GREAT! It was quite fitting they had their party at the Doyle. It all started with a private party with some of their favorite musicians: Crash & Cross, Matt Jameson, Dr. Nyce, and Hank the Buffalo. It's hard to believe so much greatness could fit in one room, but we made it happen! Singing, dancing, and having a blast! Then at 8pm, they opened the doors to the public and the massive jam ensued! All of these great musicians and more, jammed on one stage and rocked out! What an absolute blast! Thanks Mike and Pam for the invite, and for always bringing the FUN everywhere you go! You are a great example to us all! Cheers to 100 more years!!

Steel

I had limited amount of time but I still zoomed down to open mic at Blue Sky and I'm glad I did. I was able to hear Ricky, Rob Davis, Brandon, and some new attendees, Lucid Ruby! I heard of Lucid Ruby because of the CPMAs, but so glad I finally heard two out of the 3 of them. WOW! These guys were great! I loved their original music, and they defi-

continued on next page...

Pappy T's
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LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS 7-10 PM SATURDAYS 8:30-11:30PM
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6/7 Pistol Whip'd
6/13 Duane Cahill
6/14 Nuthin' Fancy
6/20 Vince Rollins
6/21 Double Header/ Pisce Boys & Hatter
6/27 Tom Tucker
6/28 Jack Nut
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Mike & Pam's 35th Anniversary

nitely left the stage wanting me to hear more! Cindy and I left to go see Wally at Flinchy's, but I got video and pics of Lucid Ruby pulling out a Cello for the jam session at the end! Super cool!

Wally was rockin' at Flinchy's. I haven't seen Wally for a little while, and it was cool to see him smiling when we walked in the door. He pretty much instantly played "What's Up" for us, and quickly had us singing and dancing along. When he took his break, we also were able to hear a few songs from Nick Minahan. He's been jamming the solo circuit for a while now, so that was an added bonus!

After a super long day I wasn't going to go out, but then Scott texted me to ask me where I was.. Steel was playing at the Mechanicsburg Legion, Post 109. Ohhhh man! Peer pressure, time to head out! I am sooo glad I did! Wowzers that was fun! Headbanging, dancing, and having a great time with friends I haven't seen for too long! Steel has gotten a new resurgence of energy with this line-up, learning so many new songs, playing new instruments.. they even created new merch! So happy for these guys! Hopefully they keep grinding, and we can still see Steel rockin' for another 30 years!

Since I was already out I decided to end the night by stopping in at Flinchy's for Matt Jameson Live. It was cool to see Mike and Pam outside of Duncannon, but still out supporting the music that they love. Matt had a great crowd, and of course played past 11pm, so I still heard quite a few songs! I'm so glad I made it out before I left for vacation the next day. It's amazing how much I miss my musical family even when I'm on an amazing vacation!

June has me running around pretty much every weekend! I will of course be out as much as humanly possible. Zack leaves for Army Boot Camp on June 2nd. If you see me and I'm an emotional mess, that would be why! Right now I have to get this done and go enjoy more Family Florida time!! Have a great month everyone, and get out there and SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!!!!

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Last month began with Devo at The Met in Philadelphia on May 1. The new wave band has existed since 1973 and is currently in the middle of their "50-Years of De-Evolution Tour" consisting of 18 shows. A fantastic visual show with great hit songs like "That's Good," "Whip It' and "Gates of Steel." The 2nd annual 'Sing Us Home' music festival held by Phiadelphia-native Dave Hause also took place that same weekend in the suburb of Manayunk. The 3-day festival took place on Venice Island and featured many artists including The

continued on next page...

Eric & Logan Betz of
The Last Post

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Friday, June 13th 6-9pm JOE LERMAN
Saturday, June 14th 6-9pm RODGER BOWYER
Friday, June 20th 6-9pm DMC DUO
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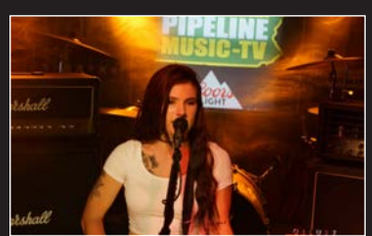

Mon. June 23rd
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NATIONALS continued....

Bouncing Souls, Frank Turner and Dave Hause and the Mermaid. However, the amazing new event had a bit of bad luck with thundershowers cancelling Saturdays evening festivities. The Bouncing Souls did their best to get as many songs in before the storm - but the band completed the evening indoors with a small intimate acoustic show. Hardcore punk band Turnstile played a free concert on May 10 in their hometown of Baltimore. Over 10,000 fans engulfed Wyman Park Dell for a truly incredible event. Turnstile promoted their new album releasing on June 6 and raised over $35,000 for the homelessness people of Baltimore. Turnstile will play Brooklyn's K Bridge Park on June 5 to celebrate their new album 'Never Enough.'

English punk band, Bad Nerves, played Baltimore's Metro Gallery on May 11 with support from Spiritual Cramp. Bad Nerves were simply amazing with unreal energy and truly great songs from their 2-album history. The band just finished their 28-date 'Still Nervous USA 25' Tour on the West Coast at Las Vegas' Punk Rock Bowling Festival. AC/DC also visited Maryland the next night at Landover's NorthWest Stadium. Quite possibly the final North American tour for the legendary Australian rock band. Formed in 1973, AC/DC now features members Brian Johnson, Angus Young, Stevie Young, Chris Chaney (Jane's Addiction) and Matt Laug (Alice Cooper) on the current 'Power Up Tour.' The band began the world tour last May 2024 and will play 52-shows before its completion on Aug 21 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Brooklyn's own, Wyldlife, played their first shows of the year in Philadelphia May 16 and New York City on May 17. A sold-out crowd filled Manhattan's Bowery Electric for the release of Wyldlife's latest record 'Sorted.' The band visits Milwaukee and Chicago next month for two shows with Criminal Kids. Australian punk band, Amyl and the Sniffers, returned to North America for their 'Cartoon Darkness World Tour' of 27-shows and sold-out every headlining show. The band played Philadelphia's Franklin Hall on May 16 and the Fillmore in Silver Spring, MD on May 19 and concluded the tour in Nashville on May 23.

Central PA's own Logan Betz has brought his solo project 'The Last Post' to fruition the past two months with numerous dates and a new debut album. His solo 'The Wayfinder Tour' played 16-shows all over including Atlantic City, Washington DC to Buffalo, NY and included a full-band on May 9 in Columbia, PA at SRCC. The Last Post is considered Emo pop with catchy melodies and emotionally-driven lyrics. Indie rock singer, MJ Lenderman, played Harrisburg for the first time on May 14 to a sold-out crowd at XL Live. He has released 5 solo albums and is a member of the band Wednesday, Lenderman currently a non-touring member but still plans to record with the group.

After a comeback performance at the M3 Festival in Maryland on May 3 and four years after announcing his retirement, former Van Halen frontman David Lee Roth is returning to the road. Roth announced a 12-show run including Atlantic City Etess Arena on Aug 8 and Bethlehem, PA Wind Creek Center on Aug 17. Prior to M3, Diamond Dave's last performance came as the opener on KISS's pandemic-interrupted 2020 tour. His last headline run was in 2006, though he did have residencies in Las Vegas.

Jane's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro has confirmed the band has "no chance" to reunite after singer Perry Farrell attacked him on stage last September. The incident happened in Boston, which led to Jane's Addiction cancelling the remaining tour dates.

Grammy-winning hard rockers Halestorm will tour the U.S. and Canada this fall in support of the band's sixth studio album. The Red Lion, PA band releases their new album, Everest, on Aug. 8 and the 20-date tour begins in September with violinist Lindsey Stirling. Halestorm will also support Iron Maiden on European tour stops and participate in the Black Sabbath's "Back to the Beginning" farewell show at Birmingham, England's Villa Park in July.

The Who have announced what they are calling a "truly grand finale" of a six-decade career, a North American summer concert tour titled "The Song Is Over." The Who co-founder and guitarist Pete Townshend says: "Well, all good things must come to an end. It is a poignant time. For me, playing to American audiences began back in 1967 has always been incredible. I must say that although the road has not always been enjoyable for me, it is usually easy: the best job I could ever have had. Roger and I are in a good place, despite our age, eager to throw our weight behind this fond farewell to all our faithful fans." Although drummer, Zak Starkey, (and son of Ringo Starr) was fired by The Who for a second time in the past month. Pete Townshend stated "Zak is 20 years younger and has a great future with his new band and other exciting projects. Roger and I wish him all the luck in the world. Scott Devours, who plays for Roger Daltrey's solo shows, will replace Zak. Please welcome him." Dates include: Aug 19 – Newark, NJ Prudential Center Aug 19, Philadelphia Wells Fargo Center Aug 21, and Atlantic City, NJ Boardwalk Hall Aug 23.

The Foo Fighters will perform live for the first time since August 2024 at Formula 1's Singapore Grand Prix Oct. 4. The bill also includes Crowded House and Alan Walker. Elton John and Smashing Pumpkins are scheduled to headline the weekend, performing on race day.

Bad Bunny set a touring record in 2022 and has already sold more than 2.6 million tickets for 54 stadium shows in 18 countries across four continents. The Puerto Rican superstar is achieving milestones that have only been achieved by artists like Taylor Swift, The Rolling Stones, Coldplay and Michael Jackson. In Mexico, Bad Bunny set a record with nearly four million fans queued on Ticketmaster for the onsale of eight shows in Mexico City and had the biggest day for an onsale in

continued on next page...

the country's history, selling out six nights at the iconic Estadio GNP Seguros in just a matter of hours. The reggaeton and trap singer, Bad Bunny, whose real name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, is on the road to promote his latest album, DeBÍ TiRAR MáS FOToS. The album, which celebrates Puerto Rican culture, was released in January to critical acclaim.

Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter Tour," opening five-show engagement at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, grossed a whopping $55.7 million, making it the highest-grossing concert engagement of the year so far. The overall number of tickets sold for the tour opener was 217,143, an average of 43,428 per night. Ticket prices for the concerts ranged from a low of $50 to a top price of $801. The 35-time Grammy Award winner had the second highest grossing tour of 2023 with her "Renaissance World Tour" in 2023, grossing $580 million from 2.8 million sold tickets at 56 stadium performances. Her 32-show trek, set to run through July, with multiple shows in New York and Washington, D.C.

A CBGB Festival is heading to Under the K Bridge Park in Brooklyn, New York, on Sept. 27 with performances from Iggy Pop (marking his first NYC Show in over a decade), Jack White, Sex Pistols, The Linda Lindas, Melvins and more. The infamous punk club, CBGB was founded in 1973 on the Bowery, helping to launch the careers of the Ramones, Blondie, Patti Smith, Talking Heads and more. CBGB Festival pays tribute to punk's originators with three stages.

Penn State is changing the name of its historical Beaver Stadium. In March, Penn State trustees accepted a $50 million gift from local home improvement company West Shore Home to expand the full name of the facility to West Shore Home Field at Beaver Stadium. The deal, which begins this fall and runs through 2039, is the second largest gift ever received by the university's athletic department. Beaver Stadium was named for a former governor and university trustee since 1960. The 15-year deal is front-loaded to help fund the $700 million renovation of the stadium. Beaver Stadium has hosted big concerts, like Luke Combs' April 2024 that sold 73,339 tickets and grossed $9.2 million.

Godsmack's Sully Erna announced that drummer Shannon Larkin and guitarist Tony Rombola have left the band after nearly 30 years to live quieter lives. Larkin and Rombola said they quit Godsmack last year because they "didn't want to tour anymore." Godsmack recently kicked off their 2025 European tour with drummer Will Hunt (Evanescence) and guitarist Sam Bam Koltun (Dorothy) filling in. Larkin elaborated, "Tony turned 60. I'm 58. Look, it's not a physical thing. We wanna be home with everything that we love. I've been touring for 40 years. This wasn't a bad thing. We're brothers for life with Sully and Robbie. It's just a new chapter for Godsmack." Larkin joined Godsmack in 2002 and Rombola since the mid-1990s. Larkin recently played with Snot at Welcome to Rockville in Florida, filling in for Jamie

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THE UNUSUAL GUESTS
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Date	Time	Venue
January 10, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Linglestown American Legion, Linglestown
January 18, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
February 1, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
February 22, 2025	8 pm - 12 am	Hollywood Casino, Grantville
March 22, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
April 4, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
April 5, 2025	7 - 10 pm	The Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, Middletown
April 26, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
May 3, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
June 20, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Linglestown American Legion, Linglestown
July 6, 2025	7 - 9 pm	Sun Retreats Lancaster County, Narvon
August 2, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
August 29, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
September 6, 2025	7 - 10 pm	The Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, Middletown
September 27, 2025	8 pm - 12 am	Hollywood Casino, Grantville
October 18, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
November 8, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
November 21, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Dillsburg American Legion, Dillsburg
Novembe 29, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Jen-Jens Rhythm N Blues, East Berlin
December 20, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Carlisle Moose Lodge, Carlisle

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Fri June 20th
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FOUR THIRTY FOUR

By Josh Noll

Hailing from Central Virginia's 434 area code, Four Thirty Four has been making waves down south and has recently begun venturing into the 717 music arena. After playing a few shows in the area, they quickly realized that Central PA's music scene was worth exploring—and a great place to start spreading the love.

Linking up with Nick from 717 Entertainment, the band quickly saw that the fan base for original heavy rock music was alive and well in the region. They appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of the audience and know that every 717 Entertainment show is worth the effort. This four-piece powerhouse has a distinctive, original style and sound that makes each of their songs instantly recognizable. With powerful lyrics and heavy, resonating guitar riffs, they hook listeners in for the ride—an apocalyptic joyride that'll have you cranking the volume to the max.

Four Thirty Four got their start back in 2019 when former members of the band Sedamentreous—Mike Vernon (vocals), Scott Jordan (guitar), and Craig Coyner (bass)—joined forces with Greg Baker (drums) from Crab Action. The band came together after some conversations between Scott and Greg at church, soon converting Greg's basement into a practice room and buying an old PA system from the church to get started. A few months later, they found themselves winging it through their first live show.

Then the pandemic hit. Not to be deterred, the band shifted gears and hit the studio, releasing singles like "Eat The Sun," "TenFo," and "Marine (Ode to R. Lee Ermey)" in 2020—three songs that laid the foundation for what was to come. These tracks are heavy with a wartime, military feel—like a battle between man, machine, society, and humanity itself;

"When the aliens are taking over,
they want to come and eat you,
The human scent they can't resist.
Don't call the police, it will just make a scene,
Don't call 911—just call the Marines! Semper Fi!"

Backed by pounding bass and guitar riffs echoing the late '80s/early '90s metal and punk scenes, the music is a one-of-a-kind mash-up of intensity and grit.

That led to the release of The Gold EP in 2021. This four-song collection quickly gained attention, with "Whiskey Fist" blowing up the charts. The opening guitar riff pulls you in, and the lyrics keep you there—an instant whiskey-fueled trip full of alcohol, drugs, sex, and rock and roll, all wrapped in distortion. It's a sonic experience that flows through the entire EP. "Red Eye," another fan favorite, has you racing alongside a pack of mechanical dogs in a high-speed, throttle-smashing joyride that demands to be played loud.

Riding high on the success of The Gold EP, the band

performed at the Blue Ridge Rock Festival, Shred Fest, and Trash and Splash. With live shows back post-pandemic, the band finally got to reconnect with fans onstage. They love performing and pour everything they have into each show, fully respecting the time and money fans invest. They consider it their duty to deliver a professional-level experience every single time.

In 2023, they released the single "High Roller," another chart-topper that reached #26 nationally on the SMR Top 50 and debuted as the #1 most-added single to secondary radio markets. The song places you right in the club with the "High Roller." While the lyrics may carry hidden meanings, one thing's for sure:

"He's on a roll and is always up to get down...
He can be a stone-cold killer—but he's really just a son of a bitch."

Driven by pounding drums and a powerful theme, this track stands tall alongside the band's previous work.

In 2024, Four Thirty Four dropped "She Knows Hotta Die"—another heavy hitter that reaffirms their mantra: No fads. No gimmicks. No trends. Just pure heavy rock, written and performed by a band who live what they preach.

Looking ahead to 2025, they've teamed up with renowned producer Kevin McNoldy (who has worked with the Dave Matthews Band, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Seven Mary Three, and thousands more). Kevin produced, engineered, mixed, and mastered a new series of singles, starting with the release of "Dope Bag" and "Energetic Opposition." And these are just the beginning. Scott expressed that "We are going to continue dropping bombs until the whole world notices".

"Dope Bag" carries a deeper meaning for the band. Scott explains that for him, it's about the "Music Man" who holds all the songs in his pouch, releasing them only when he thinks the time is right—and holding back the ones you're craving most. Whatever your interpretation, this song will help you find what's in your own "dope bag."

"Energetic Opposition" is a war cry—a call to rise up and do what you must. It's a raw, high-octane dose of metal that will leave your blood pumping as the band takes you deeper into the realm of the 434. It's a sonic onslaught you won't forget.

If bands like The Cult, Alice in Chains, System of a Down, Rob Zombie, Clutch, GWAR, and Monster Magnet mixed with Dead Kennedys, Black Flag, and Circle Jerks are your thing—Four Thirty Four needs to be in your playlist. You can find them on all streaming platforms and on YouTube, including an impressive performance from the Blue Ridge Rock Festival.

Catch them live at Scandals Live in Virginia Beach on June 6th alongside The Soap Girls. Be sure to visit the band's website (linked below) and join the mailing list for updates on new singles and upcoming shows in the area. And keep your eyes peeled—rumor has it 434 will be playing a show in the 717 soon… if you know what I mean.

Four Thirty Four would like to thank all their fans for giving them the opportunity to fill the space and perform, for every hello after a show, and for everyone who's ever bought a T-shirt. Special thanks to Kevin McNoldy and his team for producing the new singles, Russell Bartley for additional engineering, Tony DiStefano for photography, and Gary Hawthorne for web mastering.

For more on Four Thirty Four, check out the links below.

https://434band.com/home
https://www.facebook.com/fourthirtyfourmusic

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

And just like that, May's a memory. I apologize that I didn't get out to as many shows as I'd have liked, but a trip to Denver for family plus a week out of town for work got in the way a little bit. That said, I still managed a few shows and promo shoots for the month and had a great time at each.

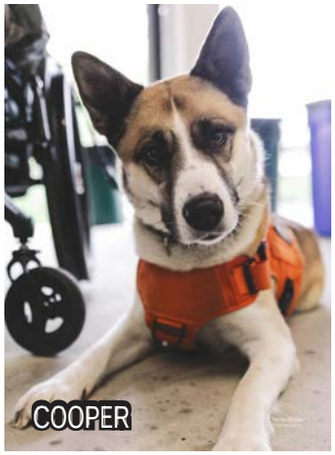
My first trip out was over to Mechanicsburg for the 2nd Annual Vertical 4 Life festival. Emcee'd by some cool guy named Matt Jameson (I feel like I've seen that name somewhere? LOL), it was a great day of music and raising money for a great cause. Haley Nelson kicked the day off. This was the fifteen year old's very first time performing in front of a crowd, and she did fantastic! Solo acoustic performance paired with a soft and sweet voice, she performed a great variety of songs for the crowd. Coming out next was my buddy Dave Gates with his variety of covers like What It's Like, Send Me On My Way, and (shockingly) even a Reggae tune or two like Jammin & others. Matt Jameson followed Dave with an energetic set that included Under The Table & Dreaming, Country Boy Can Survive and even brought Dave Gates back up to join him in a great cover of Copperhead Road. Hank The Buffalo followed this up with a number of great songs like Can't You See, Simple Man, and even a (new?) original called Blue Collar Queen. After a short intermission where the crew of Vertical 4 Life were introduced, Steel took the stage with a powerful set consisting of songs like Rainbow In The Dark, Symphony Of Destruction and more. AJ Cassat then took the stage for a solo acoustic set consisting of songs like Joker, Folsum Prison and more. Headlining the evening was the always fantastic Colt Wilbur Band, rocking out tunes like La Grange, I'm On Fire, Gimme Three Steps, and an awesome Devil Went Down To "Nashville" mashup. On top of all of this, there was a bunch of vendors slinging food, drink and other assorted goodies. It was a great day for sure. Wendy & Sir Preston even joined me for the last few bands, marking his first festival which was a good experience. Check out Vertical 4 Life's page for future events as they have a few more planned for 2025.

HALEY NELSON

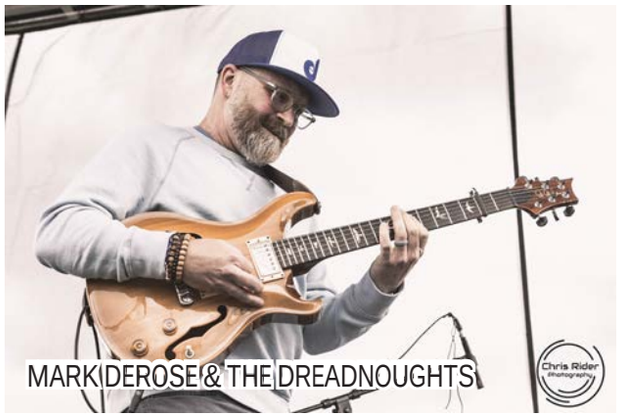
AJ CASAAT

COLT WILBUR BAND

The following week, Wendy & I headed up to Liquid Noise Brewing in Marysville to finally catch the 176ers Dueling Pianos of Dr Nyce & Cagan Goldstein. Having known Dr Nyce for a bit now, I had high expectations for this one and I was not disappointed! The guys went back & forth on songs; sometimes playing together, sometimes solo with songs like Send Me On My Way, Pour Some Sugar On Me, All Along The Watchtower (which I truly believe Dr Nyce should include a recording of his incredible version of on his next EP!). Lots of jokes, tons of laughter, great beer and grub…it really made for a great evening.


COOPER

My last trip out for the month, once I got back home, was sort of a package deal. Mark DeRose & The Dreadnoughts had asked me down to Wyndridge Farm for some promo shots, then asked me to also capture their live set during Wyndridge Farm's Spring Fest. Who am I to say no to such a request? I'd never been to the farm before and had no idea what to expect. There was a ton of great food, local vendors in an outdoor market, craft beverages, Balloon Twisting, face painting & a Temporary Tattoo Station for kids, and of course music. I unfortunately missed capturing the opening act "Just Like Murray", but from what I heard at a distance, they sounded great, and I'll be on the lookout to catch then in the future. I'd seen Mark DeRose & The DreadNoughts last year at a private party and was impressed at the time, so I was looking forward to their set this day. The guys play a wide range of tunes with a sort of rock/soul/country/


MARK DEROSE & THE DREADNOUGHTS

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jam vibe throughout…songs like Shape I'm In, Midnight Rider, 3 Little Birds, and a ton more. They're a blast to see play live and after hanging out with them for a few hours before their set, I can say they're a group of good humans that I'm proud to consider my friends.

Like I said, it wasn't as much getting out as I'd have liked this month, but every stop was a blast and very fulfilling. June is going to be a busy month. I'll be hitting up Rock On The Hill music festival in Hanover, Waynestock Outdoor Adventure & Music Festival, and the Burn It Down Music Festival in Mechanicsburg. All of these have at least some tickets still available and I highly recommend any and all of them!

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisrider-photography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it. now more than ever.

MARK DEROSE & THE DREADNOUGHTS

MARK DEROSE & THE DREADNOUGHTS

MARK DEROSE & THE DREADNOUGHTS

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

It's anniversary time for me again, as this month marks 38 years that I have been part of PA Musician Magazine! I never thought when I typed my debut article (on an actual typewriter) for the June 1987 issue that I would still be at this 38 years later! It never gets old…The excitement of attending and witnessing live music events and being a part of this area's music scene keeps me inspired and eager to share that enthusiasm in PA Musician every month! As always, thanks very much to publisher Josh Noll for allowing me to continue to occupy space in this publication, along with all the musicians, bands, venues and show organizers for keeping the music alive in this part of the world, and you the readers for your support and kind words!

The fourth annual Blair Creators Festival brought live music, arts, crafts, food, beverages and fun to downtown Altoona's Heritage Plaza in late April. Eight bands and performers graced the Plaza's Rail Car stage throughout the day; starting with Toy, who showcased their edgy alternative rock sound. Singer and guitarist Christian Douglas, lead guitarist Julian Saborio, bassist Adela and drummer Matt Savino introduced their set with their powerful new single "Target Audience," and also performed their songs "Until the Day It Does," "Swell" and "Chemical Burns." They also did versions of the Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog," the Backseat Lovers' "Pool House," Green Day's "Brain Stew," and Nirvana's "Marigold" and "All Apologies." Making their first Blair Creators Festival appearance, Felix & the Hurricanes then brought their blend of blues and rock to the stage with numbers from Jimmy Martin, Gregg Allman, Eric Clapton, Tom Petty, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the James Gang, as well as their popular original number "Walking the Straight Line." Also making his debut at this festival. Dom Frucella and his band performed a set of country-toned songs. Singing and playing guitar, Dom was joined by guitarist Jextin Pugh, Derek Mrdjenovich (of Walkney) on bass, and drummer Randy Servello. The group played several of Dom's original songs, including "South Bound," and he also did two songs as solo acoustic. Up next were Stephanie & the Wild Hearts to perform their mix of outlaw country and rock'n'roll. The lead duo of singer Stephanie and singer and guitarist Bob Onkst led the group through a mixture of their original songs and select covers, backed by guitarist Chad Morral, bassist Jacob Naugle and drummer Les Beatty. The group introduced one of their newer numbers, "Sorry You Got Caught," and also did numbers from Nancy Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Dwight Yoakam, the Eagles and more. Previously known as Hot Fudge Mondaes, Search Party next introduced their heavy-hitting, alternative-meets-nu-metal sound. Vocalist Jake Mowery, guitarists Breydon Bremer and Micah Button, bassist Kevin Neely and drummer Justin Burket slammed through several new original songs that will be on their forthcoming debut EP; Search Party also did versions of Local H's "Down to the Floor" and the Deftones' "My Own Summer (Shove It)." Eagerly anticipated on the Rail Car stage was the next performer, local NBC "The Voice" contestant Ethan Eckenroad. Armed with his acoustic guitar, Ethan showed a gentle-toned voice as he performed a number of his original songs, including his popular "Chase the Sun," "So Far From Fun," "Still Sing Amen" and more. He also played a version of Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Ethan expressed deep appreciation to the audience, and thanked them for the support during his recent run on NBC's "The Voice" (which came to an end shortly after during the program's "Playoffs" round). The musical flavor then turned to ska as – 10 members strong – Altoona's Tom Nevers Field cut loose with their fast-firing set. The group played a number of their original song creations, including "Punk Rock Girl" and "Keep It Safe," plus a cover of the Ramones' "Blitzkrieg Bop" that triggered youngsters dancing in front of the stage. Although cold from the dropping night time temperatures, Sweet Desire closed out the main stage by heating up the

continued on next page...

Felix Kos of The Hurricanes

Jim Price/Backyard Rockers
photo by Lisa Wolf

Sterling Koch

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The Professor continued...

crowd with their hearty blues-rock set. Having just put out their first CD, Sweet Desire did many of their original numbers; including "Hummingbird," "Sweet Desire," "11 x 17," "Raspberry Joe Blues," "The Dealer" and more. Sweet Desire again launched many of their songs into full-fury jams to the excitement of the crowd, and capped their set with their fiery version of the Humble Pie-popularized "I Don't Need No Doctor." In addition to the Rail Car stage, entertainment also happened in the Heritage Plaza circle lot, and included performances by comedians/comediennes Julia Shokker, Adam Holt and Ridge Hershberger, the Backyard Rockers, the Keystone Regiment Senior Drum & Bugle Corps, and the ARC of Blair County drummer and chorus groups. The Blair Creators Festival was again a fun day and a big success; hats off to the Penn State Altoona Sheetz Fellows student organizers and ArtsAltoona for making this festival happen!

Blending live music and tasty wings, the second annual Wing Fest Express event took place last month at Altoona's Railroaders Memorial Museum. Six chicken wing vendors competed for trophies with their various wing flavors, while two bands provided the musical backdrop for the wing consumption. Based in Pittsburgh, The Dang Band kicked things off with their upbeat blend of classic and modern hits. Opening with Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," The Dang Band – singer Haley "Hay Hal" Hallihan, guitarist and singer Brian Lasinski, bassist and guitarist Maxwell Knott and drummer Lisle Weaver traversed throughout the hit song spectrum, doing numbers from the White Stripes, Pat Benatar, Duran Duran, Weezer, Simple Minds, Alanis Morisette, Human League, The Chicks, Cranberries and more. They kept the pacing tight and the music continuous, and received increasing applause as their two sets progressed. Ages then provided the nightcap with their strong and sturdy style of classic rock. Bone Jacked singer Kip Woodring filled in on lead vocals this day, joining lead guitarist Tyler Bryan, bassist Jacob Naugle and his dad, drummer Jerry Naugle. Ages kept the wing-eating crowd happy with generous doses of songs from Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tom Petty, the Doors, Rolling Stones, George Thorogood, ZZ Top and more.

The Indiana Theater in downtown Indiana hosted Pittsburgh's Buffalo Rose early last month. Opening the night was western PA-based folk performer Alyssa Hankey. Joined by vi-

continued on next page...

Stephanie & Bob Onkst of Stephanie & the Wild Hearts

The Professor continued...

olinist Lydia Hull, Alyssa opened strong with her set of original folk numbers, including at least one new song – "Motel Room" – from her next album expected out next year. They also did several of Alyssa's established numbers such as "Idaho," "Wild One" and "Hard Road." Lydia's string accompaniment added a nice touch to Alyssa's music, and they sounded very good together. After the intermission, Buffalo Rose took the stage and quickly demonstrated what a talented and fun band they are…Vibrant, cheery, intricate, playful, theatric, joyful and together – these gals and guys were all of it! Their base sound is bluegrass and folk-rooted, but they took it into happy and spirited directions. Singers Margot Jezerc and Lucy Clabby were continually enthusiastic and expressive, and their harmonies were great – it was obvious that these two love to sing! Margot, Lucy, guitarist Shane McLaughlin, upright bassist Jason Rafalak, dobro player Malcolm Inglis, and mandolin player and fiddler Bryce Rabideau played songs from throughout their catalog; including their punchy new single "Solid Ground," "Not Today," "Leftover Love" (which Margot wrote in memory of her grandmother Maria), "Mushroom Song" (their latest entry to NPR's Tiny Desk Contest), the bluegrassy "God Willin'" and more. Buffalo Rose also did a few covers, including Seal's "Kiss From a Rose" from "Batman Forever," and their unique rural take on Fall Out Boy's "Sugar We're Goin Down." This group's entire happy vibe radiated with the Indiana Theater audience; everyone seemed to have a bright smile on their face by show's end!

I also caught a heavy-rocking triple bill at McGarvey's in late April. Leading off this hard-hitting triple-bill was Nanty Glo-based foursome Era-X, who got down to business with hard-rocking 1990s and alternative rock favorites. Singer Ethan Marines, daughter Emily Marines behind the drum kit, guitarist Korie Gorchik and bassist Jon Henry seized the moment and went for broke on their 1990s selection, pulling the stops on numbers from Smashing Pumpkins, Alice In Chains, Sponge, Blur, Weezer and more. Ethan's voice was powerful, Emily displayed some powerhouse drumming, and this group's execution was tight and dead-on. Era-X also pulled out tunes I almost forgot from the 1990s such as The Nixons' "Sister" and Our Lady Peace's "Superman's Dead!" Up next was the first Altoona appearance by Nero, a group assembled from the ashes of former Clearfield metal rockers Hell Bent. Lead singer Dalton Condon joins former Hell Bent members Chuck Bungo on guitar, Matt Hertlein on bass and Clayton Condon on drums. As with the previous band, Nero continues to perform heavy and hard-edged rock, but stretches into a few surprises along the way. Opening with Living Colour's "Cult of Personality," Nero rocked the house with numbers from AC/DC, Iron Maiden, Helmet, Filter, Van Halen, Rage Against the Machine and more. They also broke out a rocking take on Michael Jackson's "Beat It," and on veered Rage's "Bulls on Parade" into Hall & Oates' "You Make My Dreams Come True." Negan then slammed the lid on the night with their heavy-hitting set; pulling out 1990s alternative and metal favorites. Their set included numbers from System Of A Down, Queens Of the Stone Age, Audioslave, Soundgarden, Danzig, Stone Temple Pilots and Iron Maiden. Guest Matt Watson (of Mashbrotatoe) stepped up to front Negan on their version of the Deftones' "My Own Summer (Shove It)."

Jordan McCaulley of Sweet Desire

Part of what has kept me doing the PA Musician beat for the past 38 years is the excitement of seeing new talent and groups hitting the area stages. Such was the case when I caught my first full look at acoustic-based area trio Circa Something at Levity Brewing Co. in late April. This group features two lead singers, Jess Veach and keyboardist Curtis Tracy, while Aaron Antesberger plays acoustic guitar and cajon. Circa Something treated the Levity audience to a wide array of different decades and genres – spanning Marshall Tucker Band to Weezer, Foo Fighters to Chris Isaak, Jason Mraz to TLC and much more. Jess and Curtis both displayed powerful voices, and both blended to create great-sounding harmonies as well. Some highlights included the group's nuanced arrangement on Radiohead's "Creep" and Jess' powerful pipes on the Cranberries' "Zombie."

Another group I saw for the first time recently was area rockers Time Well Spent during their performance last month at The Grove near Belsano. Musicians from both Bedford and Cambria County comprise this group – Bedford's Mark Diehl and Duane Sipe play guitar and bass respectively, while Cambria Countians Mark Kudlawiec and Brian "Biz" Bisaha sing lead vocals and play drums. It didn't take long for Time Well Spent to fill up The Grove's dance floor as they drilled straight-up-the-gut rock'n'roll spanning the 1960s to 90s. This group was energized and brought it to the crowd, as frontman Mark continually rallied and even danced with the crowd. Time Well Spent played favorites from John Mellencamp, Cheap Trick, Tom Petty, Bryan Adams, Grand Funk Railroad, Doobie Brothers, REO Speedwagon and much more. Frontman Mark's brother Mike – who previously sang with northern Cambria County rockers Neon long ago – stepped up to the microphone to front the group on versions of Grand Funk Railroad's "We're An American Band" and Steppenwolf's "Born to Be Wild," while the group's roadie Nolan showed his voice on Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues," Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Gimme Three Steps" and Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock & Roll." A good time was had by all, and was time well spent.

After delivering last month's issues of PA Musician to the Johnstown area, I stuck around the city to check in with the new-look Boomers at Southmont Gardens. Joining longtime Boomers guitarist and singer Dave Nichols in the current lineup are singer and bassist Rick Napolitan, and drummer and singer Ken Deater. Flying without a setlist, the Boomers fired off a variety of classic rock and blues favorites spanning the 1960s through 90s. Both displaying strong voices, Rick and Ken split lead singing duties, and often blended for some sturdy harmonies as well; while Dave peppered the mix with impressive lead and slide guitar solo work. The Boomers boomed out classics from CCR, Johnny Cash, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Steve Miller Band, Georgia Satellites, ZZ Top, Beatles, Tom Petty, Steve Earle, Otis Redding and more. The Boomers had fun along the way, and that resonated with the crowd. The Boomers maintain a busy show schedule throughout the region for your rock'n'roll pleasure.

Jess Veach of Circa Something

Likewise, while completing last month's PA Musician delivery route to southern Blair and Bedford counties, I took in the monthly "Spring Dam Jam" Open Mic at the Spring Dam Brewing Co. in Roaring Spring. Happening on the third

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The Professor continued...

Thursday of every month and hosted by Braden McDannell, this Open Mic featured a number of this area's rising acoustic talents. Braden opened the night with three of his original songs, followed by similar three and four-song sets from Little Jimmy Mellonballer, the duo of Matthew Sheedy and Wes Shriner, Wes with John Brehm in the JW Project, a singer-songwriter from Huntingdon simply named "Stork," local comedian Scott Kelley, singer-songwriter James Grove, Kevo with a guest female singer (whose name I did not get), singer and keyboardist Kris Reiter, and Bedford's Devin Sherman to close the event. (While readying to perform his instrumental set, Devin accidentally busted his forehead open with his guitar and had to don a band-aid over his eye; I kidded him afterward that he might have inadvertently started a new trend: "Blood and Guts Open Mic!")

Lisa Wolf of Firewheel

Cosmic Charlie's Coffee Shop in Bellwood has surfaced over the past year as a new venue to check out acoustic music. I caught a late breakfast and my first look at Firewheel Music when they played a Sunday matinee in conjunction with Cosmic Charlie's first anniversary weekend in late April. Firewheel is the husband-and-wife tandem of Pete and Lisa Wolf. They performed a variety of classic and modern folk, plus folksy versions of rock, pop and country favorites. Among their selection this day were numbers from Fairport Convention, Beatles, John Denver, Brandi Carlile, Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, a sing-along rendition of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," and even a folk rendition of Pat Benatar's "We Belong!" An additional highlight this day was special guest Kirsten Leigh Shahmoradi, who added her viola and backing vocals to the mix on songs by John Prine, the Indigo Girls and more.

Other performers I saw recently included touring New England-based psychobilly and honky-tonk rockers Sasquatch & the Sick-A-Billys, who brought their "Highway Desperado" Spring Tour to McGarvey's last month…I also saw northeastern PA's Elephants Dancing as they brought their ska party to the Altoona Levity Brewing Co. location early last month…Also at McGarvey's, Ed N Born returned to demonstrate their brand of "Acoustinsanity" at McGarvey's early last month. Singer and guitarist Sean Osborn, and percussionist and singer Ed Hofer showed their "acoustinsanity" and stamina this night by playing for three hours straight without a break in the action!...And besides seeing their set at the aforementioned Blair Creators Festival, I also took in Felix & the Hurricanes' monthly first Sunday shindig at Altoona's Black & Gold Tavern.

News and notes…Rock and reggae will be the prominent musical flavors at the inaugural Valley Vibes Music Festival, happening June 8 at Watershed Farm in Ligonier; performing will be Lopaka Rootz, Ras Prophet, 4String Fighter & Friends, Wizdom Worldbeats Reggae and MSJR. There will also be artists and live artist demos, food and beverage trucks. Proceeds benefit the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and the Food2Go4Kids Program…After its closure last year, Pittsburgh's Club Café will reopen this summer, after being purchased by local entertainment management firm Keystone Artist Connect…Another Pittsburgh live music venue, The Smiling Moose, announced recently that they were closing their original location in the city's south side after May; according to an announcement posted on their Facebook page, the owners plan to focus on building business at their Cranberry Township restaurant and their Grove City Brewery locations…And sad news from the central PA music scene and PA Musician extended family with the passing of "Crazy John" Kerecz on May 16 at age 63. I first met John years ago during the annual Millennium Music Conference in Harrisburg. He was full of personality – friendly, witty, and could always put smiles on people's faces. He kept busy, and was frequently involved in musical projects and endeavors as well. He was a guest on my "Homegrown Rocker" radio program several years back. John was one of a kind, and he will be missed.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

Photos on The Professor pages by Jim Price

Mark Kudlawiec & Mark Diehl of Time Well Spent

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John Joseph Kerecz

John J. Kerecz, aka Space Man, 63, astronaut, author, professional engineer, passed away on May 16, 2025. Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late Joseph S. and Doris L. (Reither) Kerecz. He graduated from Dieruff High School. He attained both his Bachelor's and Masters Degrees from Penn State University.

Crazy John Kerecz had been captivating us as a musician, radio host, and a producer since the late 70s. His work can be found at www.crazyjohnkerecz.com – www.oshradio.com – www.johnkerecz.com – and IMDb.

Survivors: Son, Justin Kerecz (Nicole); Daughter, Jasmine Kerecz Staley (Eric); Grandson, Jonathan Staley; Fiancee, Janice.

Services: 1:30 PM Thursday, May 22, 2025 at Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Home, 17th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown. A viewing will be held from 12:30-1:30 PM Thursday in the funeral home. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to www.exploremars.org/donate

Nationals continued...

Miller, who is touring with Bad Religion.

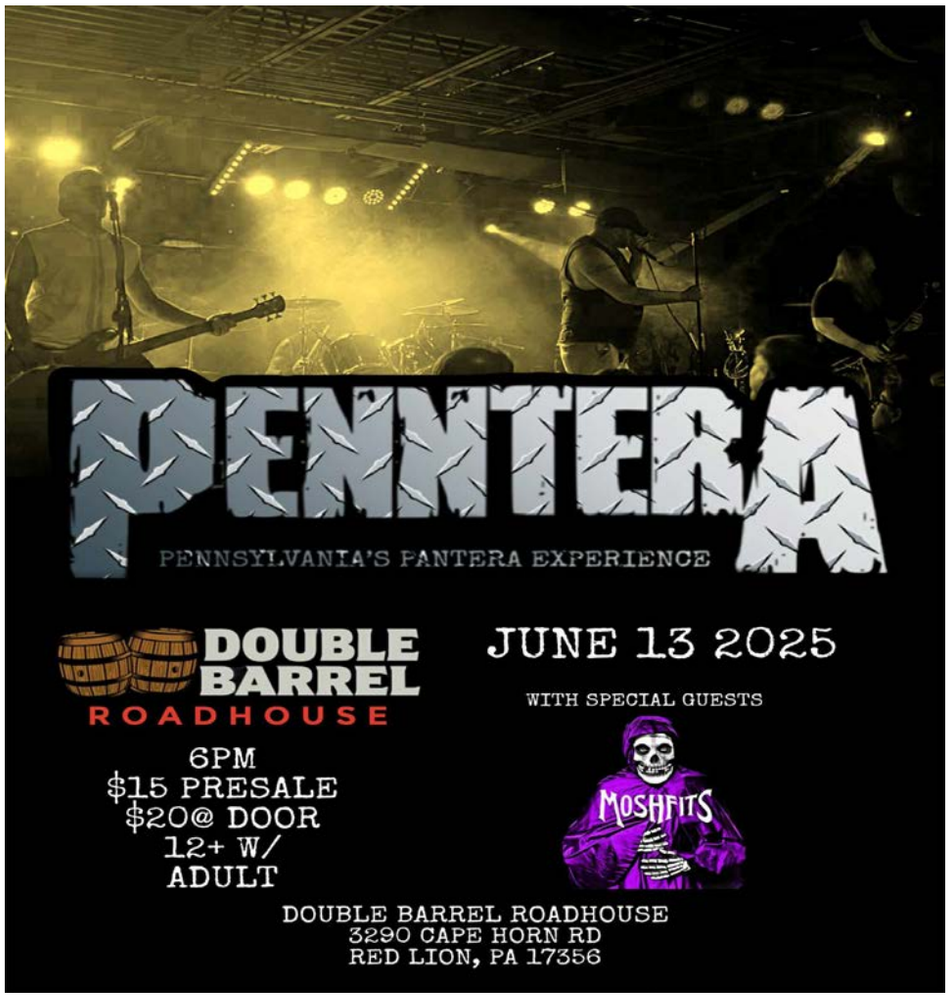
San Francisco has unveiled plans for Dead & Company to perform at Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields on Aug. 1, 2 and 3. The proposed plan would celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Grateful Dead, and goes before the Recreation and Park Commission on May 15. Dead & Company's three-day show in 2023 generated $31 million in local economic activity, with the city projecting these three shows could generate tens of millions in economic activity for the area. Mayor Lurie stated, "From Haight-Ashbury and the Grateful Dead house to Ingleside, where Jerry Garcia grew up, the Grateful Dead is embedded in San Francisco's history. Sixty years later, we're still enjoying their music – and this summer, we get to enjoy the music of Dead & Company once again. This weekend will celebrate our city's creative spirit, boost our local economy, and bring generations of fans together. This is more than just a concert – it's a San Francisco homecoming."

Lady Gaga on May 4, 2025 delivered a historic free concert in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Copacabana Beach, with an estimated 2.5 million in attendance making it the highest-attended concert by a female artist in history. Gaga posted, "Nothing could prepare me for the feeling I had during last night's show - the absolute pride and joy I felt singing for the people of Brazil. The sight of the crowd during my opening songs took my breath away." Gaga's historic night apparently tops that of Madonna, who on May 4, 2024 did a free concert at Copacabana beach to cap off the final night of her "Celebration Tour" in front of 1.6 million fans, and The Rolling Stones whose 2006 stop there also drew more than 1.5 million.

The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame announced its list of 2025 inductees, with Bad Company, Chubby Checker, Joe Cocker, Cyndi Lauper, Outkast, Soundgarden and The White Stripes to be inducted on Nov. 8 at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. Salt-N-Pepa and Warren Zevon will receive the Musical Influence Award.

JUNE Concerts: Haute & Freddy - NYC Slipper Room June 3. Turnstile - Brooklyn K Bridge Park June 5. The Ocean Blue - Wayne, PA Festival June 7. Mannequin Pussy - Harrisburg XL Live June 8. Band of Horses - Lancaster American Theatre June 11. The Badlees / Rusted Root / The Wailers - New Cumberland Iron Bridge June 13-14. Bret Michaels - Grantville Hollywood Casino June 14. The SoapGirls - Thomasville Race Horse Tavern June 16. Gene Loves Jezebel - Red Lion Double Barrel June 22. Faster Pussycat - Millersville Phantom Power June 28.

William Phillipson and Jon Poulten of Bad Nerves w/ Eric



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BAND SCHEDULES & BOOKING INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS CLASSIFIEDS.

WANTED: Lead Guitarist & Female Vocalist. Good Ole Boys Band. DooWwop, 60s, 70s main focus & other genres sprinkled in. Call 570-898-6888. Bloomsburg & surrounding area.

WANTED: Guitarist needed for rhythm and soloing. For working band. Classic rock, hard rock, dance funk. Variety. Reading PA area. Contact for info 610-914-6914

WANTED: Portage PA: Drummer and Bass player wanted for original no play out home recording and YouTube video. Must be 50 plus in age voicemail 814-322-7515.

WANTED: Acoustic, Electric Guitar player with some Lead ability, to play and sing Lead, harmony vocals with Experienced Bass player singer for Acoustic Duo playing gigs. Call: 484-345-0266

WANTED & AVAILABLE: Carlisle area blues/folk guitarist/vocals seeking local musicians. Would be excited to play in a band setting or smaller acoustic type gigs. Taylor 717-448-7573.

WANTED: Bass player wanted for working rock cover band in Bedford/Altoona area. Text or call 814-327-5497.

WANTED: HBG area guitarist looking for other musicians to play with as a pass time to start with. if its a go-then we move ahead. call 223-241-8123

WANTED:: South Central Junction seeks a male tenor and a keyboardist. Swing Funk, Jazz, Blues, etc Rehearse every Thursday in Lancaster 6:30-9:30 pm Call Robbie 717-201-0578

WANTED: Singer for 80's metal band Male or Female. High energy professional vocals required. South York area text 717-683-8625

WANTED: Lancaster Rock band looking for bassist email mattmis42@gmail.com if interested. More info upon request

WANTED Anyone want to form a Def Lep tribute band? You have to be able to sing. Mike 717-386-1205

WANTED: Lead Guitar needed for 80's metal band. This is not a startup! Practice Sundays in Red Lion, Pa. Backing vocals a plus. Text 717-683-8625

WANTED: Singer/songwriter seeking percussionist/drummer and bass player for acoustic based music. Originals and reworked covers. Robesonia. Don 484-769-7231

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE:

AVAILABLE: Piano/ guitarist. 18+years solo looking for lead. Guitarist. Dylan ,etc. county rock. I harmonize well. Know lot of songs. 717-580-0650

AVAILABLE: Mature guitar player (60's) looking for a Classic Rock-Oldies-Motown band, Wedding band/duo, trio. looking to play out 1-4 times a month. York.-Lanc-Harrisburg area. Excellent equipment, lots of experience, no ego. Team player, Backing vocals if needed. John 717-891-3859

AVAILABLE: Bassist 5-string very experienced w/vocals. Classics covers, Country anything. Looking for working or near-working band. Have PA/ Light show. Will travel. Call 610-914-6914

AVAILABLE: looking for established band near York Co. I sing and have PA and some other gear. 717-699-9542.

AVAILABLE: Experienced drummer professional equipment blah blah blah. Rock modern country. I can play i can't sing. I can be that missing piece. Let's rock. 484-332-4729.

AVAILABLE: Bass player seeking startup or established band in the Harrisburg area. Rock 60's to current. 717 574-9273

AVAILABLE: Keytar-synth player "can sit in with your band" sound of Giuffria, Ezp, Angel promo cd available AFM union scale no freebies Altoona area 443-310-1325

AVAILABLE: Professional drummer available many years of experience playing rock, pop, country, blues, etc. Can sing, play to a click or tracks Central PA preferred Call 570-898-4713

AVAILABLE: Bass Player with vocals looking for 80's/90's Rock band. Good Attitude, Looking for same. Reading, Berks County Area. Good Equipment. Looking to play out. Call:484-345-0266

AVAILABLE: Drummer in Harrisburg 45 years old, very experienced in rock, funk, blues, jazz serious inquiries call Chris 717-507-2811

AVAILABLE: Guitarist from HBG area looking for local band with PA equip and nice size rehearsal room I play solid rhythms and leads as needed call 223-241-8123

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